

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the objection and rejection, and further examination are requested.

The title of the invention has been amended.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make a number of editorial revisions thereto. A substitute specification and abstract including the revisions have been prepared and are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added. Also submitted herewith are marked-up copies of the specification and abstract indicating the changes incorporated therein.

Further, claims 15 and 19 have been amended so as to depend from claim 11, and claim 14 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 10-19 have been objected to due to a typographical error in claim 10. Claim 10 has been amended so as to correct this error. As a result, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakata (US 6,727,895) in view of Deguchi (US 5,084,107) and Bottari (US 6,727,895).

Claim 10 has been amended so as to further distinguish the present invention, as recited therein, from the references relied upon in the rejection.

The above-mentioned rejection is submitted to be inapplicable to the pending claims for the following reasons.

Claim 10 is patentable over the combination of Sakata, Deguchi and Bottari, since claim 10 recites an analog resistive-film type thin-frame touch panel including, in part:

- a lower-side electrode member having

- a lower-side transparent insulating base member, and

- a pair of lower-side bus bars disposed on two parallel sides of the lower-side transparent electrode; and

- an upper-side electrode member having

- a flexible upper-side transparent insulating base member, and

- a pair of upper-side bus bars disposed on two parallel sides of the upper-side transparent electrode, wherein

the metal thin wires and a portion of each of the upper-side and lower-side transparent insulating base members around the metal thin wires are covered with a conductive paste so that the metal thin wires are respectively fixed onto the upper-side transparent insulating base member and the lower-side transparent insulating base member.

The combination of Sakata, Deguchi and Bottari fails to disclose or suggest the above-discussed feature of claim 10.

Sakata discloses a touch panel 10 including an upper substrate 12 and a lower substrate 11. The upper substrate 12 has wires 33 and 34 associated therewith that are connected to an upper transparent electrode 16. The lower substrate 11 has wires 31 and 32 associated therewith that are connected to a lower transparent electrode 15. (See Figures 1 and 2). However, as admitted in the rejection, Sakata fails to disclose or suggest that the wires 31-34 are fixed to the lower and upper substrates 11 and 12 via a conductive paste. Therefore, Deguchi and/or Bottari must disclose or suggest this feature as recited in claim 10.

Regarding Deguchi, it discloses a solar cell electrode structure including a metal wire 3 fixed to a surface 4 of a solar cell 1 via a conductive adhesive material 2. (See column 3, lines 43-52 and Figure 2). However, as is clear from Figure 2, the conductive adhesive material 2 is located only on a bottom portion of the metal wire 3. On the other hand, claim 10 specifically recites that the metal thin wires and a portion of each of the upper-side and lower-side transparent insulating base members around the metal thin wires are covered with a conductive paste. It is apparent that the metal wire 3 of Deguchi is not covered by the conductive adhesive material 2. Therefore, Bottari must disclose or suggest this feature.

As for Bottari, it discloses a conductive edge electrode pattern 54 and a wire trace pattern 58 that are formed by screen printing a conductive silver/frit paste on a resistive coating 50. (See column 4, lines 52-56 and Figure 5). However, it is clear that Bottari fails to disclose or suggest the use of wires in association with the conductive silver/frit paste. As a result, Bottari also fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 10.

In consideration of the above discussion, Sakata, Deguchi and Bottari do not, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest, metal thin wires and a portion of each of upper-side and lower-side transparent insulating base members around the metal thin wires are covered with a conductive paste so that the metal thin wires are respectively fixed onto the upper-side transparent insulating base member and the lower-side transparent insulating base member,

which is recited in claim 10. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify or combine the references so as to obtain the invention as recited in amended claim 10.

Further, it is noted that one of the benefits of the above-discussed feature of claim 10 is that if the metal thin wires are broken due to stress or an operation mistake during the formation and/or connection of the thin metal wires, the covering conductive paste functions as an auxiliary conductive material, thereby enabling the touch panel to still operate.

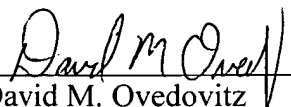
Because of the above mentioned-distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 10-13 and 15-19 are allowable over the references relied upon in the rejection. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 10-13 and 15-19. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 10-13 and 15-19 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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